



Grand Ledge Michigan

ACCOMMODATIONS

BEST WESTERN MIDWAY HOTEL

7711 W Saginaw Highway
Lansing MI 48917
Phone (517) 627-8471
Email Insmidway@voyager.net

EDWARDS WIND CREST BED & BREAKFAST

11883 Oneida Road
Grand Ledge MI 48837
Phone (517) 627-2666

FAIRFIELD INN

810 Delta Commerce Drive
Lansing MI 48917
Phone (517) 886-1066

HAMPTON INN -LANSING

525 N Canal Road
Lansing MI 48917
Phone (517) 627-8381

HOLIDAY INN WEST

7501 W Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917
Phone (517) 627-3211

QUALITY SUITES

901 Delta Commerce Drive
Lansing MI 48917
Phone (517) 886-0600

RESIDENCE INN OF LANSING

922 Delta Commerce Drive
Lansing, MI 48917
Phone (517) 886-5030

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Grand Ledge Michigan

RESTAURANTS & FAST FOOD

A & W RESTAURANT

525 W Saginaw Highway
Grand Ledge MI 48837
Phone (517) 627-7800

JERSEY GIANT SUBMARINES

516-A S Clinton St
Grand Ledge MI 48837
Phone (517) 622-4855
Email jg3sub@aol.com

LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA

615 E Saginaw Hwy
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Phone (517) 627-8371

LOG JAM, INC. (BREMERS)

110 W Jefferson Street
Grand Ledge MI 48837
Phone (517) 627-4300

PERK UP

914 Charlevoix Drive, Suite 110
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Phone (517) 622-0076

PIZZA HUT

600 E Saginaw Highway
Grand Ledge, MI 48037
Phone (517) 627-1188

PRESTON'S BAR

201 N Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Phone (517) 627-2066

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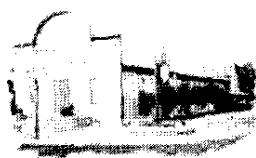
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Grand Ledge Michigan

TOWN HISTORY

Grand Ledge Area Historical Society Museum Grand Ledge Chair Company

Grand Ledge, the only one in the world, is a warm, friendly community of just over 8,000 located at the junction M-43 and M-100. Lansing and East Lansing are just minutes east on I-496, and Grand Rapids is an hour west on I-96.

Picturesquely situated on the Grand River, Grand Ledge got its name from the Grand River and the sandstone ledges that tower like sentinels along its banks as it winds along its banks through the city. First settled in the late 1830's, the city received its name and first post office in 1850 and was incorporated in 1871.

The ledges are composed of Eaton Sandstone deposited 250 million years ago. Mostly of quartz grains cemented to iron oxide, they are one of the most geologically significant areas in lower Michigan.

Fitzgerald Park offers nature trails, fish ladder, picnic areas and cross country skiing as does nearby Lincoln Brick Park. Naturalists services are available, rock climbers practice their skills on the sheer sandstone cliffs at Oak Park on the city's north side.

At the turn of the century, the islands and their resorts afforded visitors from all over the state entertainment. Now annual events afford the same opportunity for present day visitors.

THE LEGEND OF THE LEDGE

According to early records the first white man to travel this area by river and write down an account of his travels was Hugh Howard. His journal describes Grand Ledge as having high banks, some pine trees and heavy woods with the finest places possible for making syrup and several small islands.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, these islands became celebrated as a tourist Mecca and the Seven Islands resort attracted thousands to the area which was otherwise devoid of the beautiful scenery and water of Northern Michigan. An 1880 history gives the following eulogy:

"The principle attraction of the place is its picturesque and beautiful scenery. It is one of those natural parks, of mingled cliff, river and island scenery, so seldom seen, and seems especially designed to win mankind away from *the* fatigue and cares of everyday life to find in nature's companionship renewed health and vigor of life."

It is doubtful the first Native American inhabitants were attracted to Grand Ledge, which they called Big Rocks, because of "nature's companionship" described above. More than likely they came in the Spring to tap the sugar maples and to mine the clay for making pots and other receptacles.



The legendary Chief Okemos, head of the Grand River Valley tribes, was a frequent Grand Ledge visitor in the mid-1800s. Native Americans who migrated to the area in groups of 200 were no doubt mixed strains of Pottawatomi, Chippewa, and Ottawa. They were peaceful as far as the early settlers were concerned and dug clams in the river, mined coal on the river banks, and hunted for boar, deer, turkey, fox, and bear. They also fished for black bass and to them the area was called Big Rocks.

A charming legend tells about the Seven Islands at Big Rocks and how they were formed. It is said a Native American mother of seven sons decided to give them to the Great Father fearing a rival tribe might capture them. An island sprang up where each son had been dropped in the Grand River.

Grand Ledge was founded in 1848 by Edmund Lamson and his wife. It wasn't long before the area, described as an impenetrable forest, became a bustling community and it wasn't long until its residents took advantage of its natural beauty to attract pleasure seekers. In the 1870's flowing mineral wells were drilled and a local physician expounded on the medicinal qualities of the water. Then came the building of a plank house on the second island below the bridge. A small steamer was added for sight-seeing on the river and the Seven Island Resort era began, bringing people by train service provided by Detroit, Lansing, and Northern Railway.

Located on the first island below the bridge was an animal park with bears and deer. The second island became the centerpiece of the resort activities and hosted a hotel with a square Victorian tower, picnic area, fountain, and a round building dubbed "Mudge's Folly". Its builder and creator, J.S. Mudge, envisioned a mechanical tower with revolving verandah rotating at different speeds. A devastating flood damaged the structure in 1893, and its full potential was never realized. The second and third islands were joined together by means of a causeway and a large pavilion was constructed which served as a ballroom and theatre for first run Vaudeville acts. This building was also damaged in the 1893's flood and was short lived. Also located were a merry-go-round and a bandstand.

The fourth, fifth, and sixth islands were left wild and the seventh was a favorite picnic spot by boaters. As many as 75 boats played the Grand at Grand Ledge and side-wheel river boats steamed up and down the river between the second island and the dam. Our dam was constructed by J.S. Mudge to insure the proper water level for the operation of steamboats.

As many as nine hotels provided accommodations for visitors and the Pere Marquette Railroad offered excursion rates to the Seven Island Resort which, according to early records, was second in popularity only to Petoskey.

With the introduction of the automobile and the popularity it gained as a means of transportation in the early 1900's, the resort era in Grand Ledge lost its foothold.



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Grand Ledge Michigan

GRAND LEDGE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHO WE ARE:

Dues paying members whose purpose is to preserve materials and information relating to Grand Ledge area history and promote a continuing interest in the area's history

WHAT WE DO:

- Maintain the Museum's changing displays
 - Offer step-on guides for Bus Tours
 - Sponsor the Annual Holiday Home Tour
 - Maintain archives at the Public Library
 - Provide genealogy information
 - Plan seven meetings per year which are open to the public on the history of Grand Ledge - held on the first Tuesday of October, November, December, February, March, April, and May at the Opera House
 - Sell historical items including books:
 - \$15.00 - *Sawdon School Replica*
 - \$7.42 - *Greetings from Grand Ledge* (Grand Ledge Postcards)
 - \$7.42 - *Through the Years* (Graduates of Grand Ledge High School 1886-1979, class pictures and listing of graduates)
 - \$5.30 - *Very Sincerely, Frank D. Fitzgerald** (History of Gov. Frank Fitzgerald)
 - \$12.00 - *40's, 50's, 60's in Grand Ledge* (Pictorial History)
- * Please add \$2.00 shipping and handling

Please make checks payable to the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society and mail your order to:
Norman Smith, Treasurer
Grand Ledge Area Historical Society
7284 Willow Hwy.
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

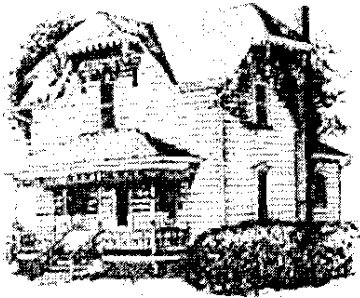
For more information, please phone (517) 627-5170 or (517) 627-2452.

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Grand Ledge Michigan

THE MUSEUM of the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society



118 West Lincoln
P.O. Box 205
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(You may enter from Lincoln Street or
through the First United Methodist Church parking lot)

LIFE IN GRAND LEDGE: 40's, 50's, and 60's

Museum hours are:

Sundays 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Festival Weekends 12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Donations Accepted

The Museum is housed in a restored 1880 Gothic Revival house. It features rotating theme exhibits. The theme for 2002 is *LIFE IN GRAND LEDGE: 40's, 50's, and 60's*. It is a nostalgic walk through three important decades in our town. As you enter the Museum, to your right you will see a display of military uniforms from W.W.II, Korea, and Vietnam. There is also a section of toys from those decades. The soda fountain represents the many eating establishments that were in Grand Ledge, including the Comet Dairy Bar (1947-1955), Deacon's Bench (c. 1969-1985), Gert's Dug Out (1951-1964), the Bluebird Cafe (1926-1966), and Preston's.

Great changes happened during these decades in education. Superintendents of Schools Jonas Sawdon (1910-1946) and Kenneth T. Beagle (1946-1973) helped sail the ship towards school consolidation. In the 1950's, 29 primary districts (one-room school houses) joined Grand Ledge Public Schools. The new High School was dedicated September 13, 1959.

On the left side of the front room, businesses and industries are highlighted. Included in this part of the exhibit are Paul Kuhn's Shoe Repair business (1928-1967) and the tools he used; Grand Ledge Clay Products (1906-1986); American Vitrified Products Co. (c.1910-1965) [notice the last pipe produced by that plant]; Grand Ledge Chair Company (1883-1981); Crawford Chair Company (1905-c.1930's); banks, drug stores, shoe stores, and dry cleaners.

Clothing on the models came from Nott's Dry Goods, E & L Dress Shop, Rudy's Men's Wear and Wayne Willis Men's Wear.

Artwork throughout this exhibit was produced by Patt Rush, Rutgers Alexander (1895-1988), Sally LaFontzee (1905-1996), Vena Lett (1874-1966), Arlene Maier Brinkey (1935-1983), and Marilyn Bendell.

As you enter the dining room, to your left is a setting of 1950's Blonde 8 Aqua furnishings, loaned to the Museum by Steve Graszler. The 1940's wedding display includes the wedding gown of Jane Decke Butterick (wedding date: 1940) and photos on the organ of the bride and groom. The 1949 pulpit was built for the Free Methodist Church by Lisle Hayes. The home reception includes a tea service donated by the Grand Ledge Education Association.

The 40's and 50's kitchen is typical of its period with the chrome table and chairs and the Melmac dishes. Photos

include food venues in town (groceries, markets, and Congdon's Bakery (1937-1954) during that time period

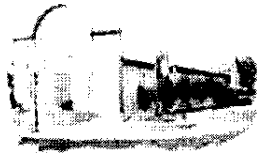
As you leave the kitchen to go to the back porch you will notice a delivery boy by displays of daily items. Milk bottles from Grand Ledge Milk Co., Ferndale and Maurer dairies, and a milk box and milk can are displayed. Notice the chicken incubator and hatching coop used in many homes in rural areas and small towns during this time. Photos of the Grand Ledge Product Company (started in 1928), the Aldrich Flour Mill (torn down in 1965), and the grain storage elevators are on the wall.

Please stroll through the herb garden as you leave. During W.W.II, many kitchen gardens became Victory Gardens to help homes be self-sufficient, freeing up food stores for the war effort

Thank you for coming, and please invite your friends to take a journey down memory lane

Tours for school groups and bus tours can be arranged by calling (517) 627-5170 or (517) 627-8594

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Grand Ledge Michigan

GRAND LEDGE CHAIR COMPANY

The Grand Ledge Chair Company was founded in 1883, when three young carpenters from Grand Rapids named Thomas Garrett, Harry Jordan, and Edward Crawford opened a shop on South Bridge and River Streets to produce chairs. It may have been called the Michigan Chair Company at that time. From contemporary newspaper accounts, we know that it was known as the Grand Ledge Chair Company by 1885. In 1893, after having established a successful business in Grand Ledge, Garrett, Jordan, and Crawford decided to sell out and returned to Grand Rapids to open a furniture factory there. The factory produced high-quality furniture, primarily chairs, although at various times tables have been made there as well.

Back in Grand Ledge, a local businessman named Edward Turnbull decided to take advantage of the opportunity and with a partner, George W. Fletcher, he bought the factory and some of the machinery in 1893. They kept the name Grand Ledge Chair Company. Shortly after acquiring the business, Turnbull bought out Fletcher's share of the business and became the sole owner.

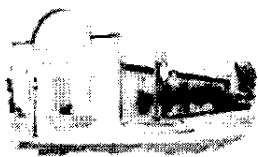
The original factory building was located on the Grand River, on South Bridge Street, adjacent to the Opera House. It was a large three-story building. The company did well, eventually outgrowing the old factory on Bridge Street. In 1906 Turnbull built a new three-story brick factory on Perry Street and moved his operations there.

The Grand Ledge Chair Company was a success, and Turnbull turned his attention to other ventures, such as the Grand Ledge Clay Products Company and the Reo Motor Company in Lansing. He died in 1916, leaving the Chair Company in the hands of his wife, Emma. She headed up the company, with assistance from manager C.M. Maris, through the Depression years and unionization in 1941. When she died in 1944, the company passed to her sister and brother-in-law, Zella and Raymond Hull. They saw the company through the long strike and incorporation during the late 1940's. Mrs. Hull died in 1950, but the company remained with her family and was managed by Mr. Hull until 1966. Their grandsons managed the Chair Company for seven years until 1973, when it became a division of the Holabird Corporation. Finally in 1981 the company closed, due to falling sales, foreign competition, and outdated facilities.

The old factory building on Perry Street is still standing and has been renovated into an apartment building, incorporating many of the architectural features of the old factory into the modern apartments.

For more information on the Grand Ledge Chair Company, please email sscharnski@aol.com.

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Grand Ledge Michigan

CHURCHES

Assembly of God
400 South Street
Phone: (517) 627-4917

Bible Missionary Church
465 Burch Street
Phone: (517) 627-5257

Calvary Lutheran Church
6301 W. St Joseph Hwy.. Lansing
Phone: (517) 321-4292

Church of Christ of Grand Ledge
4980 Burt Avenue
Phone: (517) 321-3549

Church of the Nazarene
3432 West Jefferson
Phone: (517) 627-6608

Covenant Christian Reformed Church
902 E Saginaw Hwy
Phone (517) 627-3399

Delta Haven Free Methodist Church
725 N Canal Road, Lansing
Phone (517) 323-3179

Eagle Wesley Chapel
1-96 at Exit 84, Eagle
Phone (517) 626-6902

First Congregational United Church of Christ
210 West Saginaw
Phone (517) 627-2336

First United Methodist
411 Harrison Street
Phone: (517) 627-3256

First United Pentecostal
12745 Georgia Street
Phone: (517) 627-7082

Grand Ledge Baptist Church
1120 West Willow
Phone (517) 627-9056

Grand Ledge First United Methodist
Harrison at Scott Street
Phone (517) 627-3256

Immanuel Lutheran Church
517 South Clinton
Phone (517) 627-6310

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witness
13130 Benton Road
Phone (517) 627-5184

New Life Assembly of God
400 W South Street
Phone (517) 627-2001

Oneida Gospel Church
3048 Strange Hwy
Phone (517) 627-7112

Seventh Day Adventist
4980 Burt Avenue
Phone (517) 627-4917

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church
405 Edward Street
Phone (517) 627-8493

Trinity Episcopal
201 East Jefferson
Phone (517) 627-6287

Wacousta Community United Methodist Church
9180 Herbison Road
Phone: (517) 626-6623

West Lansing Church of Christ
5505 W. St. Joseph, Lansing
Phone: (517) 323-3691



Grand Ledge Michigan

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

ABC CLUB

This club was organized in 1887 and federated in 1859 and is Grand Ledge's oldest clubs. In the early years it was a literary club but later the members broadened their horizons to include more civic minded projects.

AMERICAN LEGION COLE-BRIGGS POST 48

This post is located at 731 North Clinton. With over 200 members, the group sponsors youth baseball and Boys' State and Girls' State finals. With the help of the Auxiliary, they hold special monthly dinners, plan the Memorial Day parade, and contribute to many local, state, and charitable funds. American Legion membership requires military service during wartime.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA -TROOP 645

At Troop 645 we strongly subscribed to the Methods of Scouting and Aims of Scouting as spelled out in the guidelines for the Boy Scouts of America. In addition, we promote the philosophy of leadership training through community service and other scouting activities; the boys plan the yearly program and then run the weekly programs and monthly activities. Adults serve as advisors and offer assistance as required.

FRIENDS OF THE OPERA HOUSE

This group supports the ongoing projects involving the Opera House by holding many different kinds of fundraisers. Some of the projects have included wild game, spaghetti and oriental dinners, musical reviews, fashion shows, even a silent movie film festival along with the selling of bricks for the walkways and spindles lining the interior balcony and stairways.

GRAND LEDGE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

This is an organization of members of the business and professional community. Day to day operations are handled by an Executive Director with offices in the Grand Ledge Opera House. The Chamber sponsors Yankee Doodle Days in June and the Color Cruise and Island Festival in the Fall. They also help publish and distribute Grand Ledge brochures, have established an Economic Development Committee and Public Relations Committee to help promote Grand Ledge and bring new business to the area. Presently the office is open from 9:00 A.M. until 3 P.M., Monday through Friday.

GRAND LEDGE AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT

It was founded in 1865 and became a volunteer department in 1877 with constitution and by-laws. Annually the group elects its own officers. The 26 members are paid per run and for training sessions. Volunteer fire departments are very popular in the East and many large departments rely on "paid on call" members. In addition to 26 volunteers, the Grand Ledge Area Fire Department has five full timers responsible for the maintenance of the equipment, training and record keeping as well. Equipment, in addition to engines, include rescue trucks, river rescue equipment, ladder trucks, pumpers and grass fire fighting apparatus. A full range of rescue equipment from air bags to jaws of life are also on hand to aid in not only fire situations but vehicle accidents or natural disasters, wherever the need may be. The Grand Ledge Area Fire Department provides coverage for Oneida, Eagle, and Watertown townships and the city of Grand Ledge.

GRAND LEDGE AREA RETAILERS (GLAR)

This group of downtown and around town business owners was formed in 1995 to help downtown business survive the \$3.2 million renovation of the area's sidewalks, infrastructure and streets by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The group meets each Wednesday at 8:30 A.M., and any and all businesses are

invited to attend. For more information, please contact Marilyn Smith at (517)627-5170

GRAND LEDGE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (GLEAP)

It was initiated by area clergy in the 1970s to help people through emergencies. Currently they provide funds to help with utility bills, doctor visits, food, and medicine. They also coordinate a yearly effort to deliver Christmas food baskets to the needy. Those wishing information may contact Reverend William Amundsen at (517) 627-3256.

GRAND LEDGE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS LODGE #179

It was established in 1866. The lodge, council, and chapter has donated to Island Park parking lot paving, GLEAP, food bank, and the like. Many members also belong to the Shriners which supports hospitals for children and burn centers across the country.

GRAND LEDGE GARDEN CLUB

It was chartered in 1941 and federated in 1945. The object of the group is to stimulate the knowledge of gardening, to aid in the protection of plants, trees and birds, and encourage planting. The first project of the club was the planting of lilacs at Island Park. Today they plant the garden at the front of the Opera House and at the corner of Harrison and West River Street. More than 200 trees have been planted along major streets and in Grand Ledge parks by the Garden Club as a part of the Flowering Crab Tree Trail project, most in memory of someone who has passed away. The club's major fundraiser is the annual May geranium sale.

GRAND LEDGE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It was formally organized in 1976 as a result in the renewed interest in history sparked by the Bicentennial. The first effort by the group was the publishing of Grand Ledge Remembered. Other publications followed including Cast in Clay, Greetings from Grand Ledge, Sincerely Yours-Frank Fitzgerald, and Through the Years. They maintain archives at the Grand Ledge Library and a historic registry of homes and buildings and have membership on the Opera House Authority. The Society also operates The Museum which is open Sundays 2:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. and is located at 118 W. Lincoln Street.

GRAND LEDGE KIWANIS CLUB

It was established in 1979. Over the years the group has participated in Michigan Week, Color Cruise, Yankee Doodle Days, and the annual purchase and deliver of Christmas baskets to area needy. They meet each at Pasquale's. New members are welcome.

GRAND LEDGE LIONESS CLUB

It was chartered in 1983, and the club was sponsored by the Grand Ledge Lions. They, too, help families in need, sponsor food baskets, and contribute to Welcome Home for the Blind and Radio Talking Book Project.

GRAND LEDGE LIONS CLUB

It was chartered in 1944 and works in the area helping the needy with food and eyeglass funding. Annual fund raisers include White Cane Sale and the Lion Mint Project.

GRAND LEDGE ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

It was established in 1875 as a part of the Grand Chapter of Michigan which is the oldest chapter in the world. It was organized in Adrian in 1867. Eastern Star members locally host the Red Cross Bloodmobile each month and hold bazaars during the Island Art Fair, Color Cruise and Island Festival, and Holiday Home Tour in the Masonic Temple on West River Street. They contribute funds to GLEAP, the food bank, and several charitable and relief groups at the State and National levels.

GRAND LEDGE ROTARY

It was chartered in 1940 and meets each Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the Grand Ledge Opera House. The group supports various charities and area projects including the building of pavilions at both Fitzgerald and Lincoln Brick parks. The annual Pancake and Sausage Supper in March is the club's major fundraiser.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Michael's Council was chartered in 1979 and projects over the years have included Retreat House, Michigan Week, Grand Ledge Shopping Tour, Special Olympics, and St. Vincent's Home.

SEVEN ISLANDS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

It was chartered in 1977. Seven Islands members participate in many community, regional and national projects, award local scholarships, and provide programs to promote the professional, educational, cultural and social advancement of business women. The Chapter meets at 5:30 P.M. the third Wednesday of each month at Independence Village, Grand Ledge.

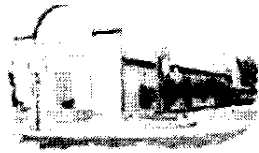
SPOTLIGHT THEATRE

It is located in Fitzgerald Park and is dedicated to offering the finest in summer entertainment. The summer play house utilized by the performers once was used as a Spiritualist Campground. Spiritualism was popular in America in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Mediums were leaders of this church and following services often went into trances to communicate with the dead. Now the building which once housed the Spiritualists is home to Spotlight Theatre. Several plays are presented each summer with the season beginning in May and ending in September.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ORGANIZATION

It was chartered in 1982, and the organization is a fraternity of veterans who have been in an expeditionary group in a foreign country. They help to insure no veterans benefits are lost. Locally the VFW places flag holders at Oakwood Cemetery for veterans. They sell poppies to raise money for their relief fund and to help those in need.

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Grand Ledge Michigan

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

When Grand Ledge celebrated its Sesquicentennial ten years ago the slogan adopted was "**A proud past and a promising future**". This slogan still stands as evidenced by the huge Grand Ledge Schools building project totaling more than 60 million dollars. New buildings completed so far are the Transportation Center and Willow Ridge Elementary School both located on Nixon Road. Under construction were additions and updating at Grand Ledge High School, the five elementary buildings, and both Hayes and Beagle Middle Schools.

Though somewhat smaller in scope, but no less important, is the more than three million dollar improvements added to the downtown by the Downtown Development Authority. Utilizing tax increment financing, the Authority was able to replace the old sidewalks with new concrete ones edged with brick pavers. Streetscaping included the addition of benches and planters coupled with new street lights and screen walls.

Overhead utilities were buried underground and other serious infrastructure work accomplished at the same time ending with the resurfacing of Bridge Street from the railroad crossing on the north to Scott Street on the south side. The addition of a large clock at the Opera House not only serves as a centerpiece for the project but helps keep residents and visitors on time. The angled parking on both East and West River Street helped add more parking to the downtown. Future DDA plans call for the revamping of the city owned parking lots in the DDA District and the purchase of more property in the downtown.

As for a proud past, The Grand Ledge Area Historical Society has archived the history of Grand Ledge and those early records are available at Grand Ledge Library or The Museum. The group was the driving force behind the renovation of one of the oldest downtown buildings and turned it into the city's crown jewel, the Grand Ledge Opera House located at the corner of East River and South Bridge Street. The Society along with the Chamber of Commerce spearheaded the fund raising for the restoration. The Opera House is now governed by the Opera House Authority made up of members of the Historical Society and Chamber of Commerce Boards of Directors along with an at-large member.

At a cost of 1.2 million dollars, the building which is situated downtown on a large piece of ground along the Grand River provides a picturesque setting for weddings, receptions, and other large gatherings and community events. The Grand Hall on the main level will accommodate 240 at a sit down dinner. The main floor also houses an antique Barton Theater organ which was originally used in the Michigan Theater in Lansing and lovingly restored by the Lansing Theatre Organ Guild. Organ concerts are scheduled regularly and often provides entertainment at parties. The Terrace Level accommodates 160. There are catering kitchens on both levels.

Also housed in the Opera House is the office of the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce, and the manages the facility.

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City of Grand Ledge

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February 4, 2003

Links....

Go!

Your going to love Grand Ledge Michigan!

Established in the 1840's, the City of Grand Ledge has held on to the spirit of community and hospitality enjoyed by its first residents and visitors. The Grand River flows through the center of the town and boast of seven islands and a unique geology of quartzite ledges along its banks.

Grand Ledge is home to over 9,000 people and a wide variety of businesses, entertainment and services. The Grand Ledge Public School District, composed of six elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, and an alternative education high school, educates over 5,000 of the community's children and excels in both academic and athletic pursuits.

Membership in the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce is always growing and expanding in order to best serve the community's residents and visitors. If you are already a resident of the City of Grand Ledge, we encourage you to browse our website and learn more about your community. If you are a visitor, please feel free to look around. We are sure you'll like what you see and we invite you to come join us in our hometown.

Helpful information

Events Calendar

Grand Ledge Area
Emergency Services
Authority regular meetings
are held the third Monday
of each month at 7:00p in
the Fire Hall, 500 N. Clinton
St.

Grand Ledge Area
Emergency Services



Grand Ledge Michigan

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Grand Ledge is an active community with numerous service organizations, clubs, and programs. Whether your interest is in gardening, reading, youth, entertaining, education, or serving those in need, you are sure to find an organization of interest or the people and energy to start your own project.

The residents of the Grand Ledge community are well-known for their volunteer spirit and generosity. Most recently, time and donations of goods and money have made possible the creation of the Skate Park for the area youth, the enhancement of the Grand Ledge Spotlight Theater, and the raising of over \$74,000 during the inaugural Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society.

For a list of local Club and Organizations in PDF format use the link below or view pages online here!

Clubs and Organizations in PDF format.

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Grand Ledge Michigan

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February 4, 2003

Helpful information

Events Calendar

Grand Ledge Area
Emergency Services
Authority regular meetings
are held the third Monday
of each month at 7:00p in
the Fire Hall, 500 N. Clinton
St.

Grand Ledge Area
Emergency Services

City of Grand Ledge

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School Name	Principal	Phone Number
Grand Ledge High	Gary Kamminga	517-627-5194
Beagle middle school	Charles Phillips	517-627-4274
Hayes middle school	Mark Christnian	517-627-5080
Delta Center (Elementry)	Nancy Hortsman	517-627-6977
Greenwood (Elementry)	Susan Friend	517-627-6440
Willow Ridge (Elementry)	Michael Johnson	517-627-4888
Holbrook (Elementry)	Dons Moore	(517-627-6830
Neff (Elementry)	Nancy Meddaugh	517-627-6400
Wacousta (Elementry)	William Thorson	517-626-6952



Grand Ledge Michigan

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City of Grand Ledge

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City Clerk	Planning / Zoning	Utility Billing	Permits, Forms, Fees	

January 14, 2002

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Administrative offices and Department heads

John Bayless	- City Administrator
Loren Sengstock	- City Treasurer/Finance Director
Gregory Newman	- City Clerk
Marlin Underhill	- Chief of Police
Casey Godlewski	- Fire Chief
Larry LaHaie	- Public Service Director
Mark Sullivan	- Director of Community and Economic Development
City Annex	- Sue Stackowiak, Zoning Administrator & Julie Tucker, City Assessor

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City of Grand Ledge



Tuesday, February 4,
2003

Helpful information

Director: Mark Sullivan

The Director of Community and Economic Development promotes the growth and economic development of the City of Grand Ledge. The Director markets the City to prospective commercial and industrial firms, and develops programs to encourage business retention.

The director of Economic Development assists businesses with developing proposals for rezoning and with obtaining permits for special use of property. It is also the duty of the Director to serve as the Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Local Development Finance Authority, (LDFA) recommending and implementing policies and developing each Authority's Annual Budget for presentation to the City Council.

Look for further development of this section of the website soon!

Community Calendar

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February 4, 2003

Public Safety

- City of Grand Ledge Police Department
- City of Grand Ledge Fire Department

Helpful information

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Grand Ledge, MI

HOME

The Grand Ledge Police Department welcomes you to our web page, a **new** and exciting way for us to communicate with the citizens and businesses of Grand Ledge

Our goals and values should be apparent in the information presented on the following pages. We believe that an effective partnership with the community will not only reduce crime, but will also create a safe environment for all in which to live, work, and raise our families



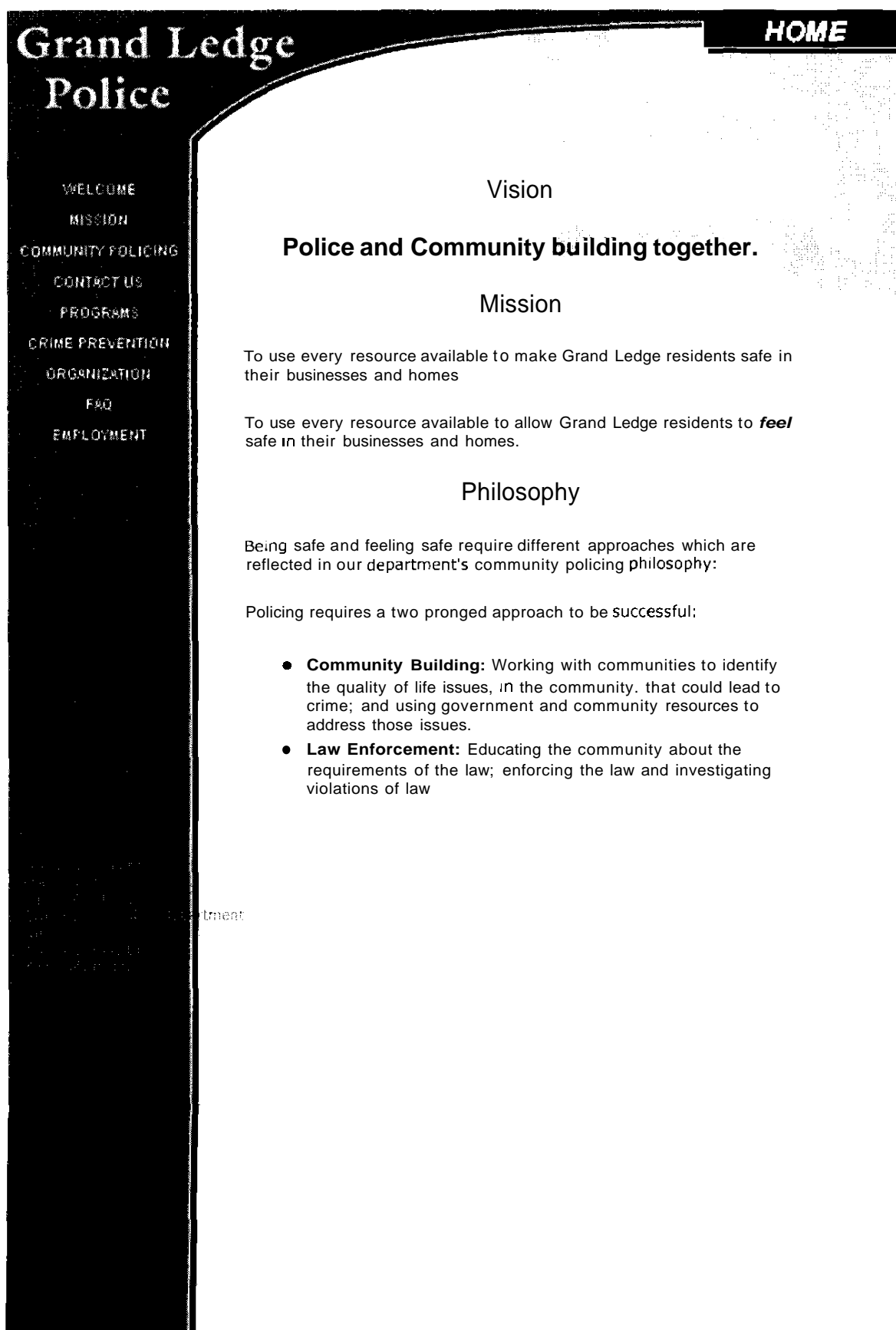
SEARCH FOR SAFETY

Select a safety tip





site designed & maintained by members of the Grand Ledge Police Department with special thanks to Kevin Wainsley



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HOME

In 1996 the Grand Ledge Police Department began a 3 year process to adopt Community Policing as our policing philosophy

What Is Community Policing?

Partnership....Effective community policing has a positive impact on reducing neighborhood crime, helping to reduce fear of crime and enhancing the quality of life in the community. It accomplishes these things by combining the efforts and resources of the police, local government and community members.

An Idea for the Times.....Community policing is a collaborative effort between the police and the community that identifies problems of crime and disorder and involves all elements of the community in the search for solutions to these problems. It is founded on close, mutually beneficial ties between police and community members.

Community policing offers a way for law enforcement to help re-energize our communities. Developing strong, self-sufficient communities is an essential step in creating an atmosphere in which serious crime will not flourish.

A Practical Approach to Problems.....Community policing seeks the input and talents of all members of the community in the effort to safeguard our neighborhoods.

Community policing is being advocated by leaders at the highest levels of government—including President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno, who describe it as the "changing of policing." It has even been suggested that community policing can play a primary role in directing the way government services are provided at the community level.

Getting Back to the People....At the center of community policing are three essential and complementary core components: community partnership, problem solving and change management.

Community partnership recognizes the value of bringing the people back into the policing process. All elements of society must pull together as never before if we are to deal effectively with the unacceptable level of crime claiming our neighborhoods.

Problem solving identifies the specific concerns that community members feel are most threatening to their Safety and well-being. These areas of concern then become priorities for joint Police-community interventions.

Change management requires a clear recognition that forging community policing partnerships and implementing problem-solving activities will necessitate changes in the organizational structure of policing. Properly managed change involves a recognition of the need for change, the communication of a clear vision that change is possible, the identification of the concrete steps needed for positive change to occur, the development of an understanding of the benefits of change, as well as the creation of an organization-wide commitment to change.

What Makes Community Policing Different? Law enforcement has long recognized the need for cooperation with the community it serves. Officers speak to neighborhood groups, participate in business and civic events, consult with social agencies and take part in education

civic events, consult with social agencies and take part in education programs for school children. Foot and bike patrols bring police closer to the community.

More Effective Ways to Solve Ongoing Problems. Law enforcement leaders seeking innovative ways to enhance performance and maximize resources have struck a responsive chord across the nation with a variety of community policing initiatives. Government and community leaders are increasingly cognizant that they must accept a share of the responsibility for problems caused by lapses in many areas of society. Police have long borne a disproportionate share of this burden.

Renewed Emphasis on Crime Prevention

The Grand Ledge Police Department is looking to enhance its tough stance on crime with renewed focus on strategies that help prevent crime, reduce fear of crime and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods. This requires an intimate knowledge of the community.

Policing concepts currently in vogue have tended to isolate officers from the communities they serve which can hamper crime control efforts. Community policing allows law enforcement to get back to the principles upon which it was founded, to integrate itself once again into the fabric of the community so that the people come to the police for counsel and help before a serious problem arises, not after the fact.

How Does Community Policing Work?

Expanded Policing Goals: Crime prevention takes on renewed importance in community policing as the police and the community become partners in addressing problems of disorder and neglect that can breed serious crime. As links between the police and the community are strengthened over time, the partnership is better able to pinpoint and mitigate the underlying causes of crime

Community Policing Relies on Active Community Involvement: Community policing recognizes that community involvement gives new dimension to crime-control activities. While police continue to handle crime fighting and law enforcement responsibilities, the police and community work together to modify conditions that can encourage criminal behavior. The resources available within communities allow for an expanded focus on crime-prevention activities.

Police Services Delivered Through the Neighborhood Patrol Officer: Patrol officers are the primary providers of police services in community policing efforts. They handle the daily policing needs of the community. The entire police organization backs the efforts of the neighborhood officers.

Effective community policing: depends on optimizing contact between patrol officers and community members so that the officer develops an intimate knowledge of the day to day workings of the community and becomes a familiar figure to community members.

Trust Is the Heart: Establishing and maintaining mutual trust is the central goal of community partnership. Trust will give the police greater access to valuable information that can lead to the prevention of and solution of crimes. It will also engender support for police activities and provide a basis for a productive working relationship with the community that will find solutions to local problems.

Long-Term Commitment Needed: Community policing **does not** offer a quick fix. It requires a long-term commitment **by** police to work with community members to reach mutually agreed-upon goals, Forming lasting partnerships to eradicate the underlying causes of crime will take effort, time and patience on the part of all involved,

Wide-Ranging Benefits: Law enforcement is finding that in addition to bringing police closer to the people, community policing offers a myriad of other benefits. Making effective use of the talents and resources available within communities will help extend severely strained police resources. As police interaction with the community becomes more positive, productive partnerships will be formed, leading to greater satisfaction with police services and increased job

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Grand Ledge Police
1000 Grand Ledge
Grand Ledge, MI 49830
Grand Ledge Police Department
Phone: 616-781-1234
Fax: 616-781-1234
Email: info@grandledge.org

HOME

Click on any name to send **email** to that individual

[Chief Martin Underhill](#)

Lieutenant Steve Starr

Sergeant Connie Stair	Sergeant Don McGillis
Detective Dan Spagnuolo	
Officer Dave Ash	Officer John Vance
Officer Sam Gay	Officer Chris Blievernicht
Officer Mark Sleep	Officer Ryan Keast
Officer Cherie Anderson	Officer Anthony Gatewood
Officer Dick Clark	Officer Keith Harper
Diane Baldus, Secretary	Officer Kirk DeWitt